UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-NINTH SESSION

Official Records

GENERAL COMMITTEE
7th meeting
held on
Friday, 18 November 1994
at 9.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ABDELLAH
(Vice-President of the General Assembly)

CONTENTS

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-NINTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS (continued)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by various countries

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of the publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/BUR/49/SR.7
2 December 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

94-82395 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Essy (President of the General Assembly), Mr. Abdellah (Vice-President of the General Assembly) took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 9.45 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-NINTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS (continued)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by various countries (A/49/236)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider a request for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Support by the United Nations system for the efforts of Governments to promote or consolidate new or restored democracies".

2. Mr. VILCHEZ ASHER (Nicaragua), speaking also on behalf of Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mali, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Suriname, Ukraine and Uruguay, introduced the request contained in document A/49/236, consisting of an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution. The request was being submitted in accordance with the Plan of Action adopted by the Second International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, held at Managua from 4 to 6 July 1994. The 74 States attending the Conference had reaffirmed the importance and effectiveness of democracy and considered the governability of new or restored democracies in the new international context. While the international community had come to recognize the difficulties created by the pace, magnitude and complexity of democratization, it was not prepared to deal with the temporarily destabilizing consequences of such sudden change. The new international political climate and encouraging new trends within the United Nations made the time ripe for a study of that problem.

3. It was to be hoped that specific recommendations would be adopted on helping new or restored democracies to preserve and consolidate their achievements and, at the same time, to evaluate them with a view to establishing an international framework for the strengthening of democratization processes. Such opportunities were fragile by nature; if they were not seized immediately, they might be overtaken by negative forces.

4. Democracy was the most reliable form of government and the cornerstone of stability in the modern world. Its future, however, was far from secure. The political, economic and social support structures of most new or restored democracies were weak and many were still haunted by the spectre of war and despair.

5. Democracy was one of the basic ideals espoused by the United Nations and its establishment had become one of the major challenges confronting the

international community. The increase in the number of States Members of the United Nations was irrefutable proof of the democratization of international relations. By focusing its attention on the strengthening of new or restored democracies, the international community would infuse dynamism into the democratization process and contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

6. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item in the agenda.

7. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

The meeting rose at 9.55 a.m.